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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,193	06/30/2003	Mark A. Nikiel	MFCP.103967	8311
5251	7590	05/25/2006		EXAMINER
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON LLP				THAI, HANH B
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT				
2555 GRAND BLVD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
KANSAS CITY,, MO 64108-2613			2163	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/608,193	NIKIEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hanh B. Thai	2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 3/21/06.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Due to the potential reference found during the updated search, the previous rejection is withdrawn and this Action is made Non-final. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Claims 1-20 and 22-36 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 and 22-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, 22-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sim et al. (US Pub. 2002/0083187 A1) in view of VanRooven et al. (US 6,523,036 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Sim discloses a database storage system for providing storage for metadata sets, each metadata set related to a file uploaded by a user over a network, the database storage system comprising:

- a plurality of database storage facilities (“storage devices” 711-713 read on “storage facilities”, Fig7; ¶ [0087]-[0088], Sim) for storing the metadata sets (Fig.7; ¶ [0087]-[0088]; [0146] and [0099], Sim discloses local storages for storing metadata files to be uploaded in the network), each storage facility comprising at least two partitioned sections (abstract; summary; ¶[0078];

- [0087]-[0088]; [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim discloses that the large payload file is portioned in multiple portions and storing these portions in storage locations “nodes”); and
- a file management component for managing metadata storage in order to store each metadata set in more than one database storage facility (¶ [0146] and [0099], Sim).

Sim does not explicitly disclose partitioned sections for storing a first copy of metadata set in read/write format and storing a second copy of metadata in read-only format.

VanRooven discloses method and system for failsafe recovery and upgrade of an embedded operating system including partitioned sections wherein one partition storing read/write data format and the others storing read-only data format (abstract; summary; col.3, line 47 to col.5, line 34, VanRooven). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add the logically partitioned section of VanRooven into the distribution network of Sim to derive the invention as claimed because it would have been to obtain an efficient system with robustness and reliability (col.3, lines 19-26, VanRooven).

Regarding claims 9 and 16, Sim discloses a method for providing storage for metadata sets for multiple users, each metadata set related to a file uploaded by a user over a network, the method comprising:

- dividing a plurality of database storage facilities into at least two logically partitioned sections (abstract; summary; ¶ [0078]; [0087]-[0088]; [0146]; [0099]

and [0235], Sim discloses that the large payload file is portioned in multiple portions); and

- managing metadata storage in order to store each metadata set in more than one database storage facility ([0146] and [0099], Sim).

Sim does not explicitly disclose partitioned sections for storing a first copy of metadata set in read/write format and storing a second copy of metadata in read-only format.

VanRooven discloses method and system for failsafe recovery and upgrade of an embedded operating system including partitioned sections wherein one partition storing read/write data format and the others storing read-only data format (abstract; summary; col.3, line 47 to col.5, line 34, VanRooven). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add the logically partitioned section of VanRooven into the distribution network of Sim to derive the invention as claimed because it would have been to obtain an efficient system with robustness and reliability (col.3, lines 19-26, VanRooven).

Regarding claims 2 and 10, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the database storage system of claim 1, further comprising file uploading and retrieval components for uploading files from the users and for retrieving the files and the metadata sets from the storage system (¶ [0081]; [0085]; [0092] and [0116], Sim).

Regarding claim 3, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the database storage system of claim 1, wherein the uploaded files are image files and the metadata sets are image metadata sets (¶[0098]-[0099] and [0243], Sim).

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Regarding claims 4 and 12, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the database storage system of claim 1, further comprising a directory hierarchy that is transparent to the users (Fig.6 and ¶[0177], Sim).

Regarding claims 6 and 14, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the database storage system of claim 1, further comprising a file sharing component for allowing visitors to view the uploaded file (¶ [0126]; [0175]-[0177], Sim).

Regarding claims 7 and 15, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the database storage system of claim 1, further comprising external storage space provided by a storage vendor system for storing uploaded files (“content vendor” ¶ [0236], Sim).

Regarding claim 8, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the database storage system of claim 1, further comprising a partner system for incorporating uploaded image tiles in a product (¶ [0175]-[0177], Sim).

Regarding claim 11, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the method of claim 9, further comprising receiving image files from the users and deriving image metadata sets (¶ [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim).

Regarding claim 17, a network storage system for providing storage space for multiple users, the system comprising:

a file uploading component for uploading an image file from each user to the storage system, and for deriving an image metadata set related to the uploaded image file (¶ [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim);

- a plurality of database storage facilities (“storage devices” 711-713, Fig7 read on “storage facility”; ¶ [0087]-[0088], Sim) for storing each image metadata set

(Fig.7; ¶ [0087]-[0088]; [0146] and [0099], Sim discloses local storages for storing metadata files to be uploaded in the network), each database storage facility including at least two logically partitioned sections (abstract; summary; ¶[0078]; [0087]-[0088]; [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim discloses that the large payload file is portioned in multiple portions); and a file management component for managing metadata storage in order to store each metadata set in more than one database storage facility ([0146] and [0099], Sim), and for directing the image file to an image storage facility (¶[0092]-[0094] Sim).

Sim does not explicitly disclose partitioned sections for storing a first copy of metadata set in read/write format and storing a second copy of metadata in read-only format.

VanRooven discloses method and system for failsafe recovery and upgrade of an embedded operating system including partitioned sections wherein one partition storing read/write data format and the others storing read-only data format (abstract; summary; col.3, line 47 to col.5, line 34, VanRooven). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add the logically partitioned section of VanRooven into the distribution network of Sim to derive the invention as claimed because it would have been to obtain an efficient system with robustness and reliability (col.3, lines 19-26, VanRooven).

Regarding claims 26, 35 and 36, a method for storing user data for multiple users using a network storage system, the method comprising:

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- uploading a data set from a user to the storage system, the data set including an image file (Fig. 7; ¶[0087]-[0088]; [0146] and [0099], Sim discloses local storages for storing metadata files to be uploaded in the network);
- deriving image metadata from the dataset (¶[0090]-[0092], Sim);
- storing the image metadata in logically partitioned sections of database storage facilities (abstract; summary; ¶[0078]; [0087]-[0088]; [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim discloses that the large payload file is portioned in multiple portions and storing these portions in storage locations “nodes”); and
- managing metadata storage in order to store each metadata set in more than one database storage facility ([0146] and [0099], Sim); and
- directing the image file to an alternate storage facility (¶[0092]-[0094] Sim).

Sim does not explicitly disclose partitioned sections for storing a first copy of metadata set in read/write format and storing a second copy of metadata in read-only format.

VanRooven discloses method and system for failsafe recovery and upgrade of an embedded operating system including partitioned sections wherein one partition storing read/write data format and the others storing read-only data format (abstract; summary; col.3, line 47 to col.5, line 34, VanRooven). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add the logically partitioned section of VanRooven into the distribution network of Sim to derive the invention as claimed because it would have been to obtain an efficient system with robustness and reliability (col.3, lines 19-26, VanRooven).

Regarding claims 19 and 28, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the system of claim 17, further comprising a user information component including an identification mechanism capable of identifying a user through a user identifier (¶[0083] and [0236], Sim).

Regarding claims 18 and 27, Sim/Hickman the file management component executes a hashing function in order to appropriately direct data to storage (abstract and summary of Hickman).

Regarding claims 20 and 29, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the system of claim 17, wherein each data storage facility includes at least three logically partitioned sections and each image metadata set is stored in three logically partitioned sections (abstract; summary; ¶[0078]; [0087]-[0088]; [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim).

Regarding claims 22 and 31, Sim/Hickman combination discloses that the database storage facilities comprise SQL machines (abstract and summary, Hickman).

Regarding claims 23 and 32, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the system of claim 17, further comprising a sharing function for allowing the users to share data with other users (¶ [0121] and [0148], Sim).

Regarding claim 24, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the system of claim 23, further comprising a mechanism for terminating a link in order to stop sharing data with the other users (¶ [0111];[0114]-[0115], Sim).

Regarding claim 25, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the system of claim 17, further comprising database storage facilities in disparate locations (abstract; summary; ¶[0078]; [0087]-[0088]; [0099]; [0146] and [0235], Sim discloses that the large payload file is portioned in multiple portions and storing these portions in disparate storage locations “nodes”).

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Regarding claim 30, Sim/ VanRooven wherein a first copy of the image metadata set is stored in read/write format and a second copy and a third copy are stored in read-only format (abstract; summary; col.3, line 47 to col.5, line 34, VanRooven).

Regarding claim 33, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the method of claim 26, further comprising sending a first version of an encrypted link to initiate sharing (¶ [0121] and [0148], Sim).

Regarding claim 34, Sim/Hickman combination discloses the method of claim 26, further comprising invalidating the first version of the encrypted link in order to terminate sharing (¶ [0121] and [0148], Sim).

4. Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sim et al. (US Pub. 2002/0083187 A1) in view of VanRooven et al. (US 6,523,036 B1) and further in view of Vu (US Pub. 2004/0143582 A1).

Regarding claims 5 and 13, Sim/ VanRooven combination discloses all of the claimed limitations as discussed above, except a digital fingerprinting component for fingerprinting each uploaded file. Vu, discloses system and method for structuring data in a computer system including fingerprint component (Fig.4; ¶ [0031] and [0040], Vu). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to utilize a fingerprint component of Vu into the combination system of Sim and VanRooven to derive the invention as claimed. The motivation of doing so would have been to efficiently scan the information attached to the file to uniquely identify it (¶ [0040], Vu).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Gennetten et al. (US Pub. 2003/0131002 A1) disclose method and apparatus for identifying a digital image and for accessing the digital image over a network.
2. Hacherl (US 6,324,571 B1) discloses floating single master operation.
3. Satagopan et al. (US 6,457,053 B1) disclose multi-master unique identifier allocation.
4. Brown et al. (US 6,498,612 B1) disclose directory services user-interface extensions architecture.
5. Kleiman et al. (Us 6,604,118 B2) disclose file system image transfer.
6. Lim et al. (US 6,604,117 B2) disclose method of maintaining a network of partially replicated database system.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B. Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

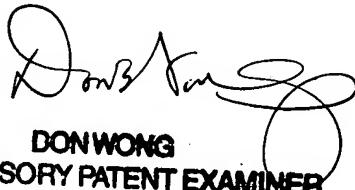
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2163

May 15, 2006



DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER